



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Somers called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0301 Reauthorization of Senior Center Bonds

Discussed

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo noted explained that \$371,000 in expended funds from the Senior Center project were intended to be included in a larger bond amount for schools or Thames Street, for example. It was discovered after reviewing the Town's audit that the bond authorization is scheduled to expire in November and there are no bonding efforts scheduled before that. If the Council reauthorizes the bonds, this amount will be added to the Thames Street bond.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Senior Center project costs were \$2.4 million less than authorized in the bond ordinance. The \$371,000 was funded by the General Fund pending bonding. Although the Town Council could use the General Fund for these expenditures, he would not recommend it. Interest costs associated with adding this \$371,000 to another bond as originally intended would be approximately \$40,000. Discussion followed and it was noted that if this expenditure comes out of the General Fund, the Town will go below the 7.5% Fund Balance.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0215 Community Access Television Application to DPUC

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger distributed a memorandum from Town Attorney Mike Carey asking that this item be tabled.

2009-0124 Ethics Ordinance

Discussed

Councilors received the Town Attorney's comments on the draft ethics ordinance. Discussion followed on meeting with the Town Attorney and deciding if this is the direction that the Town Council wants to take. Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Ethics Task Force was not given much direction by the Town Council. It would be helpful to discuss what the Town Council is trying to accomplish. Councilor Morton asked who would administer the code.

Councilor Antipas agreed that the Town Council must decide if this is what they want in an ethics

code. Mike Carey will be able to give legal advice, but not policy advice.

The consensus was to have a briefing meeting with the Town Attorney, followed by a special meeting of the Council to focus on the ethics ordinance and policy discussion.

The Town Manager clarified that the Council of Governments is discussing a regional Ethics Commission that would adjudicate individual town's ordinances.

Discussion followed on potential problems associated with an ethics code.

2012-0289 Public Hearing on Gravel Street Pump Station Lease

Discussed

The Planning Commission has approved the latest version of the Central Hall building project. The Town Attorney has advised the Town to conduct another public hearing because of the addition of the propane tank to the lease. A public hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, November 7th.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0290 Referral of Gravel Street Pump Station Lease to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Mayor Somers, to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.